

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1, 23, and 54 through 75 are pending, with Claims 1 and 23 being independent. Claims 2 through 22, and 24 through 53 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 23 have been amended. Claims 54 through 75 have been added. The title has been amended.

Claims 1 through 53 were variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 over U.S. Patent No. 4,787,063 (Muguet), taken alone or in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,591,421 B1 (Sullivan) or U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0194124 A1 (Medvinsky), and Official Notice. All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 23 recite, inter alia, allocating codes provided in advance in accordance with a predetermined rule, for processes related to ones of the multiple functions, and allocating optional codes other than the codes provided in advance, for processes related to the others of the multiple functions. (By way of example and not of limitation, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to, e.g., p. 17, lines 19-24, and p. 18, line 1 through page 21, line 24 with respect to codes allocated in advance, and to, e.g., p. 22, line 6 to page 27, line 6, and page 29, line 8 to page 32, line 19, with respect to optional codes; of course, the claims are not limited to the disclosed embodiments.)

However, Applicants respectfully submit that none of Muguet, Sullivan, Medvinsky, and Official Notice, even in the proposed combinations, assuming, arguendo, that the documents could be combined, discloses or suggests at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, inter alia, in Claims 1 and 23. Applicants respectfully note that Muguet discloses, e.g., a variety of codes; however, Applicants respectfully submit that none of those codes, or the remainder of

Muguet, provides either a description or a suggestion of said features. Applicants further submit that Sullivan, Medvinsky, and Official Notice fail to remedy the deficiencies of Muguet. Also, the taking of Official Notice is respectfully traversed in the absence of a cited reference. MPEP 2144.03.

It is further respectfully submitted that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the above-discussed claimed features.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel S. Glueck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

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